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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM AT NEYLAND COMMUNITY HUB**

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Hancock (Mayor

Cllr J Bevan

Cllr P Hay

Cllr M Harry

Cllr P Wonnacott

Cllr G Lawlor

Cllr V Edwards

Cllr S Churchill

Cllr A Lye

Cllr J Sutton (late arrival)

The Town Clerk was in attendance (Mrs. Jane Clark) and the Town Clerk’s assistant (Ms Vanessa Walker.)

**APOLOGIES:**  Cllr P Davies

Cllr. Simon Hancock welcomed everyone to the meeting post lockdown and said how nice it was to see everyone in person.

**2810 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**2811 REPRESENTATION BY PUBLIC**

None.

**2812 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th June 2021were proposed and seconded. They were agreed as a true record apart from adding more detail about the plans to support the Town Clerk after her recent illness to Minute 2808 b.

**2813** **MATTERS ARISING**

The following points were raised:

a) Minute 2806: Cllr. Lawlor confirmed that picnic tables have been ordered and should be delivered soon.

**2814 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor congratulated the Neyland Cricket Club for its successful season winning the Harrison Alan Trophy and the Alan Colley Cup and the League. He is very proud of their achievements.

**2815 UPDATE ON ACCOUNTS TO 31ST AUGUST, 2021**

The following financial information had been circulated:

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a) Bank Account Reconciliation Summary showing a balance of £67,241.28 in the Current Acct, £18,500 in the Savers Acct, £0 in the Mayor’s Acct and £0 in the Twinning Acct. The Clerk is still waiting for funds to be transferred back into the Twinning Account but has now received a claim form for retrieval of the funds from the Bank.

b) The Financial Statement – Cashbook showing income of £63,587.08 (gross) and expenditure £34,697.41 (gross).

c) The Financial Budget Comparison showing the Budget set, the actual income and expenditure figures and the balance remaining under each heading. The Town Clerk advised that the Contingency budget is overspent and was asked to send out details of the payments comprising the overspend.

**RESOLVED: That the financial information provided be accepted and agreed.**

**That a list of contingency payments made be sent to all Councillors.**

**2816 COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE**

No further progress has been made although the transfer was promised some 3 months ago. C Cllrs Hancock and Miller will endeavour to get an update by next meeting. Cllr Hancock offered to get a representative from Ateb to come to a future meeting to talk about the new development and the new road name Isambard Gardens which is apparently unpopular with local residents. He also offered to get a Pembs County Council Housing Office to attend a meeting to discuss housing allocations.

**RESOLVED: That representatives from Ateb and Pembs. County Council Housing Department be invited to attend future meetings.**

**2817 TO CONSIDER A NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following motion was submitted by Cllr A Lye and seconded by Cllr G Lawlor:

***This Council notes that the Second Reading of the Elections Bill will be read on 7th September. Among the contentious items it includes is the proposal to introduce voter ID at future UK General Elections. This Council notes that there is little or no evidence of electoral fraud to justify its introduction and that it will impact especially on older people, those on lower incomes and from ethnic minorities that could result in lower turnouts. This Council notes that it will place a greater cost in administering General Elections, increase bureaucracy and could place polling station clerks and presiding officers in potentially difficult confrontational positions. This Council resolves to write to Stephen Crabb MP and the Prime Minister, to express our concerns at the contentious proposals in the Elections Bill and requests he either votes against it, or exerts pressure to get them removed. The Bill as it stands constitutes an insidious power grab and needs to be curtailed.***

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Cllr. A Lye explained why he felt strongly about voter ID and requested to put forward an amendment as follows: ‘***That in order to strengthen our democracy, the government should consider automatic voter registration as part of the Bill, to ensure all those entitled to vote can.’*** Cllr S Churchill seconded the amendment and the ensuing vote was 6 in favour; 2 against and 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Stephen Crabb MP and Boris Johnson PM.**

**2818 PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AT NEYLAND MARINA**

Cllr G Lawlor advised that there is currently no public right of way along the Dale Sailing and Neyland Yacht Haven Marina land and proposed that a formal right of way be established to protect walking and cycling access to the Brunel Trail. The Clerk was asked to write to Matt Cloud at Pembs County Council regarding registering the path from the Marina carpark to the start of the Brunel Trail, as a Right of Way and notifying Dale Sailing and James Cotton, Manager of Neyland Yacht Haven Marina of this proposal.

**RESOLVED:** **That the Clerk write to PCC regarding registering the land as a Right of Way and to inform Dale Sailing and James Cotton at Neyland Marina of this proposal**.

**2819 NEYLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Lawlor proposed that a new Neyland Development Committee be set up with achievable goals to progress town development within this financial year. This small proactive committee would look at various projects including Marina picnic tables, flower beds, Cambrian Road railings etc with a set Development Budget which would be discussed by the Finance Committee. Cllr. Hancock asked for ideas from other Councillors.

**RESOLVED: That the Finance Committee consider the setting up of a new Neyland Development Committee and report back to full Council.**

**2820 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON SECOND HOMES**

There has been a large increase in renting out second homes which are not then subject to Council Tax. Cllr. Churchill suggested that Pembs County Council asks people to declare if they are renting their house. Councillors were in favour of a 100% increase in Council Tax for true second homes ie additional properties to main residences that are only occupied for a few weeks a year.

**RESOLVED: That a response be made to the Welsh Government consultation.**

**2821 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Accounts totalling £520.00 were approved for payment.

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**2822 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

The Town Clerk submitted the following report:

1. We have with us this evening Vanessa Walker who will be helping us out for three months in the office. She will work 15 hours per week, in the office three afternoons a week and working from home the remainder. I will be working three mornings a week and taking leave for the afternoons that I do not work, as I have only taken 2 days leave during 2021 and hope to take some leave during October and November. I have circulated a document relating to multi-location meetings and meeting notices for your information and would be grateful if everyone could familiarise themselves with what is required of us as a council to support wider accessibility to council proceedings in line with the provisions within the Local Govt and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
2. I have received information from Dragon LNG that they have entered into a Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract for solar panels on their meadow area (beyond their two tanks) with a leading UK solar firm, Anesco Ltd. Anesco will be consulting with the community through Llanstadwell CC in Phase 1 and if you have any comments to make, please do so through the Community Liaison Committee via council’s representatives, Cllrs M Harry and P Hay.
3. The police will be re-starting their drop-in sessions, hopefully from next Thursday at 2.30pm until 3.30pm in the lounge at the Hub, for members of the public to call in and discuss any policing issues they may have.
4. PCC’s consultation on Active Travel is currently in Phase 2 and they are asking residents to visit their website to add any comments you wish to make on the routes shown for the Neyland area in the hope of increasing walking and cycling in Pembrokeshire. The website can be found at <https://pembrokeshirephase2.commonplace.is>
5. I have been informed that the Hub will shortly be getting a permanent wi-fi connection which will improve internet speed and the reliability of access to the building. The only issue with this is that the town council will have to have a new telephone number. I will be informed of this new number as soon as it is available and will publicise it as much as possible prior to the change taking place.
6. Just a quick reminder that we have been invited to light our beacon on 2nd June 2022 to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee as we don’t seem to have made a decision as to whether we are taking part. All information can be found at [www.queensjubileebeacons.com](http://www.queensjubileebeacons.com)

The following was agreed:

a) Multi-location meetings: Provision should be in place to allow for both remote and physical attendance at all future Council meetings. Councillors agreed with Cllr Lawlor that there should be regular representation by the Police and Pembs County Council at future meetings.

b) The Town Council telephone number will be changing to accommodate new wifi arrangements in the Community Hub.

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**2823 ANY OTHER INFORMATION**

The following matters were raised:

1. Sportsway Flower Bed – Cllr. Lawlor declared a personal interest but advised that costings have been put forward for planting the bed at Sportsway by Grandiflora. The total cost is £705.60 inc.VAT for various shrubs including lavender. After discussion it was agreed that only lavender be used. Cllr Lawlor will get two other quotes for further discussion at the October meeting.
2. Cemetery **-** fly tipping is causing problems, however the field has now been fenced off. The Burial Board may have to remove the items at a considerable cost unless the perpetrator can be found.
3. Path lighting to the Playpark – the path from Victoria Road to playpark needs some form of lighting at night. Cllr. Hay will put a proposal to the Council. It was agreed in the meantime that Cllr. P Miller be asked if lighting can be provided from the adjacent new development.
4. Speed limit on A477 – there appears to have been no progress and it was agreed that an update be requested.

e) Youths driving in an anti-social manner are causing problems along Riverside Avenue which needs to be discussed with the Police. It was agreed that the new Police Inspector from Milford Haven be invited to a meeting.

1. Cllr S Churchill raised concerns about an illegal electric scooter being driven on the High Street.
2. The Riga Avenue parking scheme has been approved but the actual details are not yet known.

h) Friends of Neyland Play Park – it was agreed that this should be put on the agenda for the October meeting.

1. It was agreed that a letter and some flowers should be sent to Linda Walters who has retired from crossing patrol duties in Neyland.

j) Cllr. Lawlor informed Councillors that some of the new trees need to be relocated in Riverside Avenue.

k) Cllr Churchill had concerns about any parking reviews being performed by Pembs County Council and the need to take account of home electrical charging, charging areas adjacent to houses and the potential for lamp post charging.

l) Cllr. Lawlor informed Councillors of the possibility of a “Go Idle” scheme being put in place where parents in cars dropping children off outside school will be asked to turn off their engines after 15 secs. The Council was very supportive of this suggestion.

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m) Outdoor play equipment – it was agreed that this should be put on the agenda for the October meeting.

n) Speeding on The Promenade – Cllr. Hancock will arrange for Go Safe to set up mobile cameras.

**2824 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th October 2021 at 7.00pm at the Community Hub.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed ……………………………………………… Mayor ………………………… Date

Signed …………………………………………….. Town Clerk